

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of entry distribution, comprising:  
receiving requests by a chaining backend from an original client;  
forwarding requests from the chaining backend to one of a plurality of [[a]] remote servers; and  
returning results from the one of the plurality of remote servers to the original client;  
wherein the chaining backend is a type of database plug-in that acts as a multiplexer,  
wherein the chaining backend comprises a directory information tree defining the hierarchy of the plurality of remote servers.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein standard LDAP operations are supported.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the entry distribution is hidden from the original client.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the chaining backend coexists with other backends.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
implementing pass-through authentication by the chaining backend.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
evaluating and enforcing access controls by the one of the plurality of remote servers that holds the results.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
evaluating and enforcing a plurality of access controls by the chaining backend.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
maintaining a pool of connections to the one of the plurality of remote servers by the chaining backend.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the pool of connections for a bind connection is a specific pool of connections dedicated for chaining of bind requests.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
examining an operation state using the chaining backend to check whether an operation is abandoned.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
configuring the multiplexer to return a referral that point to the one of the plurality of remote servers holding the results.
13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
forwarding a search size limit parameter to the one of the plurality of remote servers.
14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
updating a time limit parameter to account for additional processing delay introduced by the multiplexer; and  
forwarding the updated time limit parameter to the one of the plurality of remote servers.
15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
implementing pass-through authentication by the chaining backend;  
evaluating and enforcing access controls by the one of the plurality of remote servers that holds the results;  
evaluating and enforcing a plurality of access controls by the chaining backend;  
maintaining a pool of connections to the one of the plurality of remote servers by the chaining backend;  
examining an operation state using the chaining backend to check whether an operation is abandoned;  
configuring the multiplexer to return a referral pointing to the one of the plurality of remote servers holding the results;  
forwarding a search size limit parameter to the one of the plurality of remote servers;  
updating a time limit parameter to account for additional processing delay introduced by the multiplexer; and  
forwarding the updated time limit parameter to the one of the plurality of remote servers.

16. (Currently Amended) A directory server allowing entry distribution, comprising:  
a chaining backend receiving a request from an original client, wherein the chaining backend is a type of database plug-in that acts as a multiplexer; and  
a plurality of remote servers operatively connected to the chaining backend, wherein the chaining backend forwards the request to one of the plurality of remote servers a remote server receiving the request from the chaining backend;  
wherein, a result obtained in response to the request is returned to the original client from the one of the plurality of remote servers,  
wherein the chaining backend comprises a directory information tree defining the hierarchy of the plurality of remote servers.
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Original) The directory server of claim 16, wherein standard LDAP operations are supported.
19. (Original) The directory server of claim 16, wherein the entry distribution is hidden from the original client.
20. (Original) The directory server of claim 16, wherein the chaining backend coexists with other backends.
21. (Original) The directory server of claim 16, further comprising:  
a pass-through authentication implemented by the chaining backend.
22. (Currently Amended) The directory server of claim 16, further comprising:  
a plurality of access controls evaluated and enforced by the one of the plurality of remote servers that holds the results.
23. (Original) The directory server of claim 16, further comprising:  
a plurality of access controls evaluated and enforced by the chaining backend.
24. (Currently Amended) The directory server of claim 16, further comprising:  
a pool of connections to the one of the plurality of remote servers maintained by the chaining backend.

25. (Original) The directory server of claim 24, wherein the pool of connections for a bind connection is a specific pool of connections dedicated for chaining of bind requests.
26. (Original) The directory server of claim 16, further comprising:  
an operation state examined using the chaining backend to check whether an operation is abandoned.
27. (Currently Amended) The directory server of claim 16, further comprising:  
the multiplexer configured to return a referral pointing to the one of the plurality of remote servers holding the results.
28. (Currently Amended) The directory server of claim 16, further comprising:  
a search size limit parameter forwarded to the one of the plurality of remote servers.
29. (Currently Amended) The directory server of claim 16, further comprising:  
a time limit parameter updated to account for additional processing delay introduced by the multiplexer; and  
an updated time limit parameter forwarded to the one of the plurality of remote servers.
30. (Currently Amended) The directory server of claim 16, further comprising:  
a pass-through authentication implemented by the chaining backend;  
a plurality of access controls evaluated and enforced by the one of the plurality of remote servers that holds the results;  
a plurality of access controls evaluated and enforced by the chaining backend;  
a pool of connections to the one of the plurality of remote servers maintained by the chaining backend;  
an operation state examined using the chaining backend to check whether an operation is abandoned;  
the multiplexer configured to return a referral pointing to the remote server holding the results;  
a search size limit parameter forwarded to the one of the plurality of remote servers;  
a time limit parameter updated to account for additional processing delay introduced by the multiplexer; and  
an updated time limit parameter forwarded to the one of the plurality of remote servers.

31. (Cancelled)
32. (Currently Amended) A system for entry distribution, comprising:
  - means for receiving requests by a chaining backend from an original client;
  - means for forwarding requests from the chaining backend to one of a plurality of [[a]]  
remote servers; and
  - means for returning results from the one of the plurality of remote servers to the original  
client;
  - wherein the chaining backend is a type of database plug-in that acts as a multiplexer,
  - wherein the chaining backend comprises a directory information tree defining the  
hierarchy of the plurality of remote servers.